

33. (New) The magnetically actuated coupler assembly of claim 29 wherein the coupler knuckle contains a slot, an edge of which interacts with one of the stops of the coupler head to limit the capability of the coupler knuckle to open.

34. (New) The magnetically-actuated coupler knuckle of claim 30 wherein the cantilever spring and the drawbar are molded together as a unitary piece from engineering plastic. --

REMARKS

With the entry of this Amendment, all original claims 2-21 and new claims 22-34 are pending. New claims 22-34 are presented to place the application in a better form for appeal. New claims 22-34 correspond identically to currently pending claims 9-21 under final rejection but incorporate those specific changes set forth by the Examiner in the Final Action mailed 7/24/2001 (Page 25) to overcome the recapture rejection of claims 9-21 under 35 U.S. C. § 251. For reference, claims 9, 10, and 12-21 were submitted in the Amendment dated 12/22/2000 and filed 12/28/2000 (Paper No. 18). Claim 11 was submitted in the Amendment dated 6/12/2001 filed that same date (Paper No. 22). Applicant submits these claims so that, if unsuccessful with the Appeal of the rejection of claims 9-21, Applicant will have at least the some patent protection based upon those claims to go with already allowed claims 2-8. Claims 22-34 require merely a cursory review to confirm that they correspond to original claims 9-21 with only the changes suggested by the Examiner. For the Examiner's convenience, marked up copies of the new claims 22-34 showing the changes being made to original claims 9-21 are attached. CLAIMS 9-21 REMAIN UNCHANGED AND PENDING AND THE SUBJECT OF APPEAL. THE MARKED UP CLAIMS ARE NOT SUBSTITUTES FOR CLAIMS 9-21.

The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned representative by telephone as soon as this Amendment is resolved so that the pending state of the claims can be properly addressed in the Appeal Brief.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARK UPS OF NEW CLAIMS 22-34 SHOWING RELATION TO PENDING CLAIMS 9-21

(based on pending claim 9) 22. A magnetically-actuated coupler assembly for a model railroad car comprising:

a drawbar capable of being pivotally mounted within a coupler pocket in the end of a model railroad car, the drawbar including a first end having a leaf spring formed as an integral part thereof which extends from the first end of the drawbar, a coupler head formed on a second end of the drawbar, and a cantilever spring formed as an integral part of the drawbar extending from the drawbar adjacent to the coupler head;

a pivotable coupler knuckle secured to the coupler head; and

a magnetically-actuated post which pivotally secures the coupler knuckle to the coupler head, the magnetically-actuated post being pivotally connected to and extending downwardly from the coupler head, the coupler knuckle being in constant contact with the cantilever spring to urge the coupler knuckle to a closed or coupled position, the cantilever spring having a first portion which curves away from the drawbar and a free end which curves back toward the coupler knuckle to apply a tangential force to the coupler knuckle, such that the magnetically-actuated coupler is assembled from three parts and the coupler head containing a pair of stops which limit the movement of the pivotally mounted coupler knuckle.

(based on pending 10) 23. A magnetically-actuated coupler assembly for a model railroad car comprising:

(a) a drawbar with first and second ends, the first end being configured for pivotal mounting within a coupler pocket in the end of a model railroad car;

(b) a coupler head at the second end of the drawbar;

(c) a magnetically-actuated post pivotally secured to the drawbar so as to extend downward from the drawbar;

(d) a coupler knuckle pivotally secured to the second end of the drawbar with the post, the coupler head having a pair of stops which limit the pivotal movement of the coupler knuckle on the drawbar;

(e) a leaf spring being formed as an integral part of the first end of the drawbar and extending from the first end of the drawbar; and

(f) a cantilever spring formed as an integral part of the drawbar, the cantilever spring including a first portion extending from the drawbar proximally the coupler head which

curves away from the drawbar and the coupler knuckle and a free end which curves back toward the coupler knuckle sufficiently so as to constantly apply a tangential force against the coupler knuckle and urge the coupler knuckle to a closed or coupled position in all positions of the coupler knuckle between the pair of stops.

(based on pending 11) 24. The magnetically-actuated coupler assembly of claim (10) 23 further comprising (a) the leaf spring secured to the first end of the drawbar (and) extending outward and around the first end of the drawbar to form a C-shape.

(based on pending 12) 25. The magnetically-actuated coupler assembly of claim (10) 23 wherein the outer tip of the coupler knuckle contains a lip which extends inward toward the post.

(based on pending 13) 26. The magnetically-actuated coupler assembly of claim (10) 23 wherein the drawbar includes an extension lip, extending from the drawbar.

(based on pending 14) 27. The magnetically actuated coupler assembly of claim (10) 23 wherein the coupler knuckle contains a slot, an edge of which interacts with one of the stops of the coupler head to limit the capability of the coupler knuckle to open.

(based on pending 15) 28. The magnetically-actuated coupler knuckle of claim (10) 23 wherein the leaf spring and the drawbar are molded together as a unitary piece from engineering plastic.

(based on pending 16) 29. A magnetically-actuated coupler assembly for a model railroad car comprising:

a drawbar having a first end adapted to be pivotally mounted within a coupler pocket in the end of a model railroad car and an opposing, second end;

a coupler head formed on the second end of the drawbar;

a leaf spring being formed as an integral part of the first end of the drawbar and extending from the first end of the drawbar;

a cantilever spring formed as an integral part of the drawbar and extending from

the drawbar adjacent to the coupler head;

a coupler knuckle pivotally secured to the coupler head;

a magnetically-actuated post pivotally securing the coupler knuckle to the coupler head, the magnetically-actuated post being pivotally connected to and extending at least downwardly from the coupler head, the coupler knuckle being in constant contact with the cantilever spring to urge the coupler knuckle to a closed or coupled position, the cantilever spring having a first portion which curves away from the drawbar and a free end which curves back toward the coupler knuckle to apply a tangential force to the coupler knuckle, such that the magnetically-actuated coupler is assembled from three parts; and

the coupler head containing a pair of stops which limit the movement of the pivotally mounted coupler knuckle.

(based on pending 17) 30. The magnetically-actuated coupler assembly of claim (16) 29 further comprising (a) the leaf spring secured to the first end of the crossbar (and) extending[s] outward and around the first end of the drawbar to form a C-shape.

(based on pending 18) 31. The magnetically-actuated coupler assembly of (16) 29 wherein the outer tip of the coupler knuckle contains a lip which extends inward toward the post.

(based on pending 19) 32. The magnetically-actuated coupler assembly of claim (16) 29 wherein the drawbar includes an extension lip, extending from the drawbar.

(based on pending 20) 33. The magnetically actuated coupler assembly of claim (16) 29 wherein the coupler knuckle contains a slot, an edge of which interacts with one of the stops of the coupler head to limit the capability of the coupler knuckle to open.

(based on pending 21) 34. The magnetically-actuated coupler knuckle of claim (17) 30 wherein the cantilever spring and the drawbar are molded together as a unitary piece from engineering plastic.